

Five Star Restoration Program

Building Partnerships ...
Empowering Communities...
Restoring our Natural Resources



Five Star Restoration Program

- # Supports community-based efforts to:
 - *restore wetlands and other aquatic resources*
 - *build diverse partnerships*
 - *foster local stewardship of resources*
 - # Initiated as pilot in 1997/98 as a demonstration project
 - # NACo, WHC, NFWF, Southern Company and EPA partner to run the grant program
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Five Star Restoration Program

- # Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000, with average of \$10,000
 - # Must include on-the-ground restoration
 - # At least 5 *diverse* partners (e.g., schools, businesses, local government, youth corps, citizens groups, private landowners)
 - # Education & training benefits
 - # Leveraging of funds with other partner contributions (over 6:1)
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Five Star Restoration Program

Accomplishments (FY99-05)

- **394 projects** (out of nearly 1570 applications) supported in 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico and USVI
- **Around 50 grants per year**
- **Results** (from 174 completed projects):
 - *8,225 wetland acres restored or improved*
 - *Almost 95 miles of stream banks restored*
- **Over 18,000 community volunteers engaged**



Why create or restore wetlands?

- # **Floodwater Storage** – Wetlands function as natural tubs or sponges, storing immense quantities of floodwater and slowly releasing it over time. Protecting and restoring wetlands helps reduce the frequency and extent of flooding.
 - # **Water Quality** – Perhaps the world's best filters, wetlands have been called the “kidneys of the watershed” for their ability to degrade or break down pollutants and improve water quality.
 - # **Stream Flow and Ground Water Recharge** – Wetlands store and slowly release water over time helping to maintain water flow in streams especially during dry periods and some wetlands are important for recharging aquifers.
 - # **Biological Productivity** – Wetlands are among the most biologically productive ecosystems on Earth.
 - # **Wildlife Habitat** – Wetlands provide a myriad of habitats for numerous species of fish and other wildlife. Wetlands are important feeding areas, as well as resting sites for migratory birds.
 - # **Aesthetics and Open Space**
 - # **Education**
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Projects provide multiple community benefits:

- *Habitat creation and enhancement*
- *Improved Water Quality*
- *Flood control/shoreline protection*
- *Economic redevelopment*
- *Education*
- *Environmental justice*
- *Recreation*



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Cross-program benefits w/in EPA:

- *NPS/319*
- *National Estuary Program*
- *Brownfields*

...and with other federal agencies:

- *NOAA Restoration Center*
- *NRCS*
- *FWS' Partners Program*
- *Office of Surface Mining/AMD*

Support President Bush's Earth Day 2004 Wetland Goal



Five Star Restoration Program

High visibility and accolades:

- Congress
- Federal Agencies (CEQ Report on Progress Toward Implementing the President's Goal)
- NACo National and State Meetings
- Local and National Media Attention
- Wildlife Habitat Council Annual Symposium
- Awards (Nat'l Wetlands Awards, EPA Gold Medals, Taking Wing, Gulf Guardian, etc.)

“The Five Star Restoration Program is an outstanding model of the collaborative partnerships that will accelerate the pace of protecting and conserving our nation’s environment – helping to meet President Bush’s challenge to restore, improve and protect three million acres of wetlands nationwide by 2009.”

**- EPA Administrator
Stephen L. Johnson**

Five Star Restoration Program

Keys to Success

- # Streamlined application procedure
 - # “Seed money” is leveraged in both financial and on-the-ground results
 - # Promoting diverse partnerships
 - # Strong technical input and review
 - # Outreach and enhanced visibility generated through each of the administering partners
 - # Bronze plaque promotes local visibility
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Little Blue River Restoration, MO



- # 1,500 feet of native prairie wildflowers and grasses were planted along the Little Blue River by student and adult volunteers.
- # The project included the mitigation of storm water runoff from Pink Hill Road by converting 300 feet of ditch into a wider vegetated swale planted with natives to slow erosion.
- # A curriculum on native plant solutions to storm water pollution was developed to use for student presentations and field trips.
- # In total, 2,800 volunteers were directly involved in the plantings and education presentations.

Little Blue River Restoration, MO

- # The project received great publicity from the community. As a part of National Wetlands Month, EPA Regional Administrator, James B. Gulliford, visited the site to present a recognition plaque and joined EPA staff to help students with planting the vegetated channel and emergent wet prairie. Local newspaper and local cable coverage reached an estimated 16,800 people within the community.
- # Partners included the Mid-America Regional Council, Adaptive Ecosystems, Inc., KC Wildlands, Friends of Lakeside Nature Center, Missouri Department of Conservation, Arrow Printing and Shroud Honda.



Five Star Restoration Program

■ Engaging a wide range of non-traditional partners

- *At-risk or adjudicated youth*
- *Tribal agencies and schools*
- *Local government leaders*
- *Corporations & NGOs*



Local Government Involvement: A Key to Success

- # Local governments have an existing structure that's proven and well-connected in the community
 - Elected officials can help coordinate and implement a project through one of their various departments
 - Local government staff have technical experience
 - Some past local government grantees were:
 - Department of Public Works
 - Department of Planning
 - Departments of Parks and Recreation
 - Boards of Education
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Local Government Involvement: A Key to Success



“The county and region benefited by developing partnerships through the Five Star Grant Program. The Shoreline Restoration Workshops provide local officials and volunteers with the information and tools they need to strike an effective balance between public use and resource protection.”

-- Mike Byerly

Commissioner Alachua
County, FL

Corporate Involvement: A Key to Success

- # Corporate Partners have people-power, land, and funds to leverage against federal funding.
 - # Corporations can:
 - Provide and/or coordinate volunteers
 - Provide goods and services for restoration activities
 - Provide educational materials
 - Coordinate activities
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Some of the past Five Star Corporate Grantees were:

- # Breitburn Enery, Inc.
 - # Marathon Ashland Petroleum, LLC
 - # Private Industry Council of Northern Nevada
 - # BFI Imperial Landfill
 - # U.S. Steel – Fairless Works
 - # Snowshoe Ski Resort
 - # Koch Industries
 - # Lafarge
 - # Rinker Materials
 - # U.S. Steel
 - # Waste Management
 - # Alcoa, Inc.
 - # US Generating, Inc. (TransCanada)
 - # BASF Corporation
 - # Bayer Corporation
 - # BP
 - # ConocoPhillips
 - # Consumers Energy
 - # Dow Chemical Company
 - # DTE Energy
 - # DuPont Company
 - # Eli Lilly and Company
 - # ExxonMobil
 - # Ford Motor Company
 - # Formosa Plastics Corporation
 - # Kinder Morgan
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Corporate Sponsorship

- # Corporate Sponsorship either nationally, regional, or locally
 - # Southern Company
 - Provided an additional \$200,000 in funding for 2006 and beyond
 - Increased total funding for Five Star by 40%
 - New funding will target the South, but will increase the pool of money for the rest of the U.S.
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How to find restoration projects?

- # Ask any of the Five Star Partners for any projects occurring in a particular location.
 - # Ask your local, state, or federal land conservation, environmental management, or parks department for any projects that they may be planning.
 - # Ask your EPA Regional Wetlands Program Office.
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EPA Regional Contacts:

- # Region 1 – Matt Schweisberg (617-918-1628)
 - # Region 2 – Dan Montella (212-637-3801)
 - # Region 3 – Tom Slenkamp (215-814-2750)
 - # Region 4 – Ron Mikulak (404-562-9233)
 - # Region 5 – Susan Elston (312-886-6115)
 - # Region 6 – Richard Prather (214-665-8333)
 - # Region 7 – Kathy Mulder (913-551-7542)
 - # Region 8 – Gene Reetz (303-312-6850)
 - # Region 9 – Tim Vendlinski (415-972-3464)
 - # Region 10 – Gary Voerman (206-553-0717)
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Partner contacts

- # Erik Johston (ejohnston@naco.org)
NACo Community Services Assistant
- # Matthew Hurley (matthew.hurley@nfwf.org)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- # Otto Loggers (ologgers@wildlifehc.org)
Wildlife Habitat Council
- # Myra Price (price.myra@epa.gov)
EPA

Websites: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/> or
www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands
